**Losses Incurred by MMTC**

967. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Indian Express dated 29th September, 1996, captioned "MMTC incurs losses due to irregularities";

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to set right the working of the Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) There is no News Item in Indian Express dated 29th September' 96 captioned "MMTC incurs losses due to irregularities". However, Hon'ble MP possibly refers to the News Item in the Indian Express dated 26th September' 96.

(b) and (c) The Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

**Extension of RPDS to blocks Covered under Employment Assurance Scheme in Gujarat**

968. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to extend the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) to all the Blocks covered under the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) in the State of Gujarat and other parts of the country(b) if satets details thereof; and

(c) the names of assential commodities being made avilable to the consumers particularly to the tribals through RPDS in Gujarat with details there of?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) It has been decided in principle to extend geographical coverage of RPDS to all the Blocks covered under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). However, a statement showing the names of the States including Gujarat and the number of Blocks covered under RPDS as at present is enclosed as Statement. *(See* below)

(c) Government of India has assumed the responsibility to provide six essential commodities viz, wheat, rice, sugar, edible oil, kerosene and soft coke under PDS/RPDS programme. States arc free to add other commodities in accordance with the local needs for distribution by using the vast network of PDS outlets.

**Statement**

*Satement showing the number of blocks covered under RPDS*

| No. | State/UT | No. of Blocks covered under RPDS |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | A.P | 120 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 48 |
| 3. | Assam | 69 |
| 4. | Bihar | 156 |
| 5. | Goa | ——— |
| 6. | Gujarat | 97 |
| 7. | Haryana | 44 |
| 8. | H.P. | 7 |
| 9. | J&K | 57 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 94 |
| 11. | Kerala | 21 |
| 12. | M.P. | 223 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 114 |
| 14. | Manipur | 22 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 30 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 20 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 28 |
| 18. | Orissa | 143 |
| 19. | Punjab | — |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 122 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 04 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 56 |
| 23 | Tripura | 18 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 145 |
| 25, | West Bengal | 128 |
| 26. | A&N Islands | 02 |
| 27. | Chandigarh | — |
| 28. | D&NHaveli | 01 |
| 29. | Daman & Diu | 01 |
| 30. | Dehli | — |
| 31. | Lakshadweep | 05 |
| 32. | Pondicherry | — |
| | TOTAL | 1775 |

RPDS: Revamped Public Distribution System